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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Conditions in Toy-Shan District, Kwangtung
Province

25X1

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4. After the Chinese Communists assumed control of the country, [] the "landlord class" [] was forced to do farm work on an almost slave labor basis. For example, for a period of two years [] worked on farms from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, seven days a week. After two years [] was paid a thousand dollars in "People's Currency," which is equivalent to less than US\$4.

5. During this entire period [] permitted to buy more than 4 oz of rice per day. [] see meat or any vegetables for more than two years.

6. [] crops in South China have been very bad recently and there is great shortage of practically everything. People are currently using peanut oil for cooking and there is not much of that available. There is no meat on the market and practically no vegetables. Most of the foodstuffs raised in the area are taken away by the Communist authorities. However, there is enough salt.

7. [] the Communist authorities have even taken all of the cats and dogs in the area because they would have to be fed.

8. [] although the landlords are almost all liquidated, as of 1953, some small independently owned stores are still open. As a matter of fact, many are not permitted to close by order of the authorities. However, any money that the store makes is promptly taken away from the owner. If a store

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owner refuses to give the authorities any money and says that he has none, he is beaten up until he furnishes a little. He is then beaten up again for having lied in the first place.

9. [] when the Communists first came in and talked about land reform many of the poor farmers were extremely happy. They were favorable to the Communists as they felt they were getting something for nothing. However, they have found that even though they got some land, production quotas and taxes are so high that they have nothing left and they have done all their work for nothing. Consequently, as of 1953, there is growing hatred against the Communists, even among those who at first were for them.
10. [] the hopelessness of the people's position is leading to a steady increase in the number of suicides. The people just cannot take the hunger and the torture they are subjected to when they have no hope for any possible changes in conditions.
11. Surveillance of the people by the authorities is constant, and particularly so for those in the "landlord class." It is necessary for everyone, however, to get an official permit to go visit friends outside the village, and they are given just so much time. They are searched by the police when they return to their homes just to make sure that they did not obtain any guns, knives, or other contraband. However, when the Communists first assumed control they confiscated all guns and all larger knives, so actually there is nothing of this sort to be had.
12. []
- 25X1 [] young men of 18 or 19 are told that there are "good jobs" available for them elsewhere and they are taken away. Their relatives do not know where they have gone and they never come back. Their relatives never hear from them again.
13. [] they did not hear much about the Korean war in [] village as there are no newspapers available, no radios, and there is not even a loud speaker in the village. [] no news about the USSR, although [] this is not surprising because as [] a member of the "landlord class" no one was permitted to talk [] and even old friends were afraid to speak []
14. []
15. Even in spite of the fact that travel is severely restricted, news does get out of China by way of Hong Kong. []
- 25X1 []
- 25X1 [] All correspondence in and out of China is, of course, censored. Censorship is usually at the village.
16. The Chinese Communists are making great efforts to influence the youth and are succeeding to a great extent. Even little children are used as snoops for the Communists and it has gotten to the point where parents are afraid to talk openly to their children. []
- 25X1 []
- 25X1 [] it was known that the Communists attempted to pump information on parents' opinions and actions from the children.

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17. In line with this breakdown of traditional respect for elders, it is standard practice for the Communist authorities to howl at old people and upbraid them publicly. They are still permitted to get food, but receive a limit of 4 oz of rice per day, just as my wife and other members of the "landlord class."
18. Incidentally, members of the "landlord class" are not permitted to go to the market.. They are required to buy their needs from peddlers. They are not permitted to buy more than the absolute maximum requirement for one week, i e, 28 oz of rice, although occasionally they are able to obtain a little salt and sometimes even a small fish.
19. The people in the area used to burn kerosene in their lamps at home, but now there are no more lights as there is no kerosene available and there is nothing else to burn.
20. The Communist authorities confiscated all the people's newer clothes, but did not take any of the old and worn out clothes.
21. As far as controls are concerned, the villages in the Toy-Shan District are usually controlled by people who were formerly farmers. It is obligatory for all farmers and people of the village to attend a meeting every night at which Communist propaganda is featured.
22. There is no industry in the Toy-Shan District. It is strictly a farming area and produces cane sugar, rice, and vegetables, most of which is now confiscated by the Communists and taken away. [redacted] no factories or other industries being established in the area and [redacted] no road construction or railroad construction in the area.
23. Prior to World War II, [redacted] one road through [redacted] village which ran from Sunchong through Toy-Shan to Quonghai. [redacted] this road, which had been badly battered during the war, is now being rebuilt, although it is still mostly dirt. It is about two cars wide at the most and during the rainy season is almost impassable. However, when the going gets bad, sand and gravel are dumped on the bad places. There is practically no travel on the road.
24. As far as possibilities of resistance to the Communists are concerned, they are just about nil in the Toy-Shan area. Because it is all farm area there is no place to hide and there are no supplies for guerrillas to begin with.

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